

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A scalability type selection method and structure for hybrid SNR-temporal  
scalability that employs a decision mechanism capable of selecting between  
SNR and temporal scalability based upon desired criteria is disclosed. This  
method and structure utilizes models of the desired criteria such as the extent  
of motion between two encoded frames, the temporal distance between two  
10 encoded frames, the gain in visual quality achieved by using SNR scalability  
over temporal scalability, and the bandwidth available to the scaleable layer in  
deciding which form of scalability to use. Furthermore, the method and  
structure allows for control over the extent to which a certain type of scalability  
is used. By the selection of parameters used in the models, a certain type of  
scalability can be emphasized while another type of scalability can be given  
15 less preference. This invention not only allows the type of scalability to be  
selected but also to the degree to which the scalability will be used.